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UM conference examines ecosystem restoration policy

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NEWS RELEASE

Sept. 8, 2006

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UM CONFERENCE EXAMINES ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION POLICY

MISSOULA—

Legal and policy issues related to the restoration of the Clark Fork River Basin are the focus of the 30th Annual Public Land Law Conference to be held at The University of Montana Sept. 25-27.

“The Law of Ecosystem Restoration: National Policy Implications of the Clark Fork River Basin Natural Resource Damage Program” will begin with a keynote address by Deputy Secretary of the Interior Lynn Scarlett on Monday, Sept. 25.

Scarlett will present “From Resource Damages to Restoration: An Evolution Toward Partnerships” at 7 p.m. in the University Center Theater.

UM President George Dennison will introduce Scarlett and announce the appointment of the Public Land and Resources National Advisory Board at the University.

The keynote address and a reception following the event are free and open to the public.

During the conference, experts from across the nation will discuss the best way to address the diverse needs and concerns of multiple stakeholders in affected areas. They also will examine the appropriate balance between assessing damages for past harms and fully restoring impacted resources.

Because many issues raised in the ongoing Clark Fork River Basin restoration reflect

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national concerns about natural resource damage assessment and implementation, the conference will explore how lessons learned from the process might be translated into national policy initiatives or applied in natural resource damage programs elsewhere.

Events for registered participants begin Monday with an optional tour of the Milltown Dam removal and restoration site.

Conference sessions run from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 26, and from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 27. UM law Professor Raymond Cross will give the conference closing remarks.

There will be ample opportunity for those attending the conference to participate in facilitated discussions during the events. All sessions will be held at the University's School of Law Castles Center.

The conference offers 11 Continuing Legal Education credits for attorneys. Faculty members and full-time students may attend the conference at no charge but are asked to register in advance.

Registration forms, conference fees and a complete schedule of events are online at <http://www.umt.edu/publicland/conference.htm>.

This year's Public Land Law Conference is presented by the Public Land and Resources Law Review, a student-run publication of UM's School of Law, in partnership with the University's Public Policy Research Institute.

For further information, call 406-243-6568 or e-mail plrlr@umontana.edu.

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